

# Citizen Science Working Group

**Description:** A group to promote understanding of the role and benefits of Citizen Science in USGS research.

**Point Of Contact:** Sophia Liu, [sophialiu@usgs.gov](mailto:sophialiu@usgs.gov)

**THE CITIZEN SCIENCE WORKING GROUP IS NOT MEETING, NOR IS IT ENGAGING IN FORMAL PROJECT OR OTHER COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME.**

**HOWEVER, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO CONTINUE TO SHARE RELEVANT INFORMATION VIA THE GROUP EMAIL LIST:**

**[GS\\_CDI\\_Citizen\\_Science\\_Working\\_Group@usgs.gov](mailto:GS_CDI_Citizen_Science_Working_Group@usgs.gov)**

*"Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life." --Rachel Carson*

## Citizen Science, USGS Research, and the Citizen Science Working Group

'Citizen science' refers to scientific observation, measurement, research, and related activities conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur or nonprofessional scientists and other citizen volunteers (modified from Wikipedia, 04-15-2013).

Citizen science complements and enhances more conventional scientific methods and studies. The role of citizen science in the realm of the natural sciences is particularly valuable. Governments and other institutions often do not have the resources to generate the baseline and on-going observation and monitoring data required to address complex environmental issues because ecological monitoring is expensive, labor intensive, and time consuming. (Modified from Lee, T., et al. 2006.)

The purpose of CDI **Citizen Science Working Group** (CSWG) is to:

- promote an understanding of the role and potential benefits of Citizen Science and Scientists in the conduct of USGS research;
- facilitate and enhance connections between the USGS and the larger federal and public Citizen Science communities;
- provide access to information and tools to support the proper, effective, and creative use of Citizen Science data within the USGS;
- engage the public in USGS and partner science; and
- foster and improve the public's scientific literacy.

## Become a Member

The CDI Citizen Science Working Group (CSWG) welcomes the participation of anyone interested in Citizen Science and its role in USGS research. If you wish join the group, please email [cdi@usgs.gov](mailto:cdi@usgs.gov).

After you have joined, please add your name and other information to our Citizen Science Working Group [Member Roster](#)

An email list has been set up for this team. If you wish to send an email to the group, please use:

- [GS\\_CDI\\_Citizen\\_Science\\_Working\\_Group@usgs.gov](mailto:GS_CDI_Citizen_Science_Working_Group@usgs.gov)

## Citizen Science Working Group Calendar

## Current Projects

## Previous Projects

### CSWG FY2013 Project

#### myScience: Citizen Science Project Discovery & Public Engagement Web Portal

- myScience: USGS Citizen Science Project Discovery & Public Engagement Web Application
- Presentation August 14, 2013: [myScience: USGS Citizen Science Project Discovery & Public Engagement Web Application](#)

### 2013 CDI Webinar Series: Session on Public Participation in Scientific Research

- [Webinar Agenda](#)— includes slides, recordings and details about each presenter in this special 4 speaker webinar.
  - Colleen Flanagan, NPS ([slides](#), [recording wmv](#), [recording mp4](#))
  - Sally Holl, USGS ([slides](#), [recording wmv](#), [recording mp4](#))
  - Jake Weltzin, USGS ([slides](#), [recording wmv](#), [recording mp4](#))
  - Greg Newman, NREL Colorado State ([slides](#), [recording wmv](#), [recording mp4](#))

### CSWG FY2012 Project

- USGS Citizen Science Workshop, Denver, CO, September 11-12, 2012- Visit the Workshop Agenda web site to access available presentation files, notes and recordings from this event!
  - [Review a Brown Bag presentation](#) about the Workshop given to Reston, VA attendees in September, 2012.
  - Open-File Report: Hines, Megan, Benson, Abigail, Govoni, David, Masaki, Derek, Poore, Barbara, Simpson, Annie, and Tessler, Steven, 2013, *Partnering for Science: Proceedings of the USGS Workshop on Citizen Science*; U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2013–1234, 51 p., <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1234/>.

## Resources

### USGS

- [Citizen Science & Crowdsourcing at USGS](#) (Dave Govoni)
- [USGS Citizen Science Projects](#)(USGS funded or officially sanctioned)
  - [USGS Citizen Science Project Inventory](#) -- data entry form ★
- [USGS Employee Projects and Activities](#) (Non-work related)
- [Citizen Science-related Reports & Presentations](#)
- [Citizen Science Contact List](#) (Available to DOI only at this time)
- [Citizen Science Group Knowledgebase on Mendeley](#) (Barbara Poore)
- [Policies, Processes and Contacts for Compliance](#)

## Partners and Others

- Selected References & Other Resources
  - Toolkits to Kick off Your Project
  - Citizen Science Related Workshop Proceedings
  - Assessments of Citizen Science Activities
- Social Media Links

### Listservs

- [FCPCCS@listserv.gsa.gov](mailto:FCPCCS@listserv.gsa.gov), the FCPCCS listserv (federal agency staff only).
- [CitSci-discussion-L@cornell.edu](mailto:CitSci-discussion-L@cornell.edu), the discussion-based public listserv for the community supporting citizen science, volunteer monitoring, and other forms of public participation in scientific research.

## Related Community and Activities Sites

### Federal

- Federal Community of Practice for Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science (FCPCCS)
- EPA Community of Practice | Region 2 | Headquarters
- NASA Solve
  - Provides list of current opportunities for the public to contribute to solving tough problems related to NASA's mission through challenges, prize competitions, crowdsourcing and citizen science.
- NIH Community of Practice
- NOAA Community of Practice

### Non-Federal

- [Citizen Science Association](#)

## CSWG Meetings

### Meetings

The Citizen Science Working Group meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. ET. Ad hoc project groups or sub-teams may meet at other times.

#### Audio:

- **USGS/DOI Dial In Number: (703) 648-4848** (for USGS and DOI offices)
- **Toll Free Dial In Number: (855) 547-8255** (for other offices and telecommute locations)
- **Conference Code: 47919#** (same for both numbers)

#### WebEx:

- <https://usgs.webex.com> - Meeting name: (15) CDI Citizen Science Working Group (**WebEX Host Key is 838789**)

#### Note-taking:

- **A shared USGS Etherpad workspace for real-time note taking, editing, and viewing is available to all group members at: <https://usgs.titanpad.com/CDI-CSWG-Citizen-Science-FY15> . Password = CSWG15 .**
- Earlier CSWG pads can be found here:
  - FY14 – <http://usgs.titanpad.com/CDI-CSWG-Citizen-Science-FY14>
  - FY13 – <http://usgs.titanpad.com/cdi-citizenscience-FY13>
  - FY12 – <http://usgs.titanpad.com/cdi-citizenscience>

### Ideas for Future Meetings

- Post your ideas for future meeting presentations and topics [here](#).